




TOY SOLDIERS

THE BEST OF

MARTIKA

- 1 Toy Soldiers
- 2 I Feel The Earth Move
- 3 More Than You Know
- 4 Water (Remix)
- 5 Martika's Kitchen
- 6 Love... Thy Will Be Done
- 7 Coloured Kisses
- 8 Cross My Heart
- 9 Temptation
- 10 Don't Say U Love Me
- 11 Safe In The Arms Of Love
- 12 Quiero Entregarte Mi Amor
(Spanish Version "More Than You Know")
- 13 I Feel The Earth Move
(Club Mix)
- 14 Toy Soldiers
(Japanese Version)
- 15 Love... Thy Will Be Done
(Prince Mix)



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1 Toy Soldiers 04.19

(Martika / M. Jay)

2 I Feel The Earth Move 04.14

(C. King)

3 More Than You Know 04.04

(Martika / M. Jay / M. Morrow)

4 Water (Remix) 04.30

(Martika / L. Treadwell / S. Sheridan)

5 Martika's Kitchen 04.11

(Prince)

6 Love... Thy Will Be Done 04.24

(Martika / Prince)

7 Coloured Kisses 04.07

(Martika / L. Pierce / F. Blue)

8 Cross My Heart 03.51

(M. Jay)

9 Temptation 04.46

(Martika / L. Pierce / F. Blue)

10 Don't Say U Love Me 04.23

(Martika / Prince)

11 Safe In The Arms Of Love 05.08

(Martika / M. Jay / M. Cruz)

12 Quiero Entregarte Mi Amor

(Spanish Version "More Than You Know") 04.13

(Martika / M. Jay / M. Morrow)

13 I Feel The Earth Move

(Club Mix) 06.36

(C. King)

14 Toy Soldiers

(Japanese Version) 04.45

(Martika / M. Jay)

15 Love... Thy Will Be Done

(Prince Mix) 05.58

(Martika / Prince)

Compilation produced by Jeff Magid. Mastered by Joseph M. Palmaccio

Photography: David Jenson / E J Camp

Design: Simon Cantwell



When hip-hop star Eminem sampled a large chunk of Martika's "Toy Soldiers" for his own "Like Toy Soldiers," he not only re-contextualised a smash hit about a crumbling relationship into a political hip-hop proclamation, he also tapped into a vein of highly resonant music explicitly associated with the eighties. Frequently compared to the likes of Tiffany and Debbie Gibson and dubbed "a post-Madonna dance-rock queen" by Billboard, Martika is one of the more intriguing mainstream American female singers of that decade.

Marta 'Martika' Marrero was born in California on 18 May 1969, after her parents had fled Cuba shortly after the revolution. Martika has claimed that "being an entertainer, to sing and have success, was a calling for me." She took dance and voice lessons from the age of four and developed into a promising ballerina before catching the "acting bug." At the age of 13, she emerged as a dancer in John Huston's movie *Annie*, before appearances in *Different Strokes*, *Silver Spoons* and *Hardcastle & McCormick* and the high profile role of singing and dancing Gloria in the TV series *Kids Incorporated*. A tea-drinking, cross-dressing, extrovert British pop-star, however, was to prompt Martika to identify her true vocation: "I wasn't sure which way I wanted to go - music, acting or dancing," she once admitted, "Then when I saw Boy George, I said 'That's it. I'm gonna be a pop star.'"

Martika took to this vocation with gusto. Her Madonna-esque debut single "More Than You Know" broke into the US top 20 in December 1988. The subsequent "Toy Soldiers" (with its infamous, slightly eerie children's choir) topped the US charts for two weeks in the summer of 1989 (and reached the top 5 in the UK), "I Feel The Earth Move" - a gutsy Carole King cover - reached number seven in the UK. The ensuing album *Martika* - "spunky re-writes of "Lucky

Star"-era Madonna pop is the kind of music that can be repeated ad infinitum and never palls", according to the NME - eventually sold over three million copies and earned the bi-lingual, bi-cultural singer Number One hits in Germany, England, Japan, Australia, Spain, Mexico, Canada, France, Brazil, Chile and China. Curiously, the singer claimed divine intervention in the song-writing process: "My songs are sent to me, definitely," explained Martika in Smash Hits, "I think music is the language of angels, the angels send me the songs." For Martika, sleep was also a productive activity: "I hear songs in my dreams all the time. When I can, I wake myself up and go lay it down. But it's really hard to wake yourself up."

Returning to acting, Martika took the role of jazz singer, Dahlia Mendez in the US television series *Wiseguy* ahead of recording her follow-up. Ms Marrero's sophomore album *Martika's Kitchen* evolved into "A twelve course meal spiced by carefully picked chefs de cuisine" (Music & Media magazine). On the release, Martika worked with C&C Music Factory's Robert Clivillés and David Cole, Frankie Blue and Les Pierce, Michael Jay and - most effectively - Prince to produce an album on which "My soul came out for the first time - I'm singing from a deeper place".

Tellingly, Martika had already declared the latter's lascivious music as that which she would turn to when she was feeling "rather horny," and - perhaps appositely - never-confirmed rumours abounded that the pair indulged in a relationship. The fruits of the collaboration were four of Martika's best tracks: "Spirit," "Don't Say U Love Me," "Love...Thy Will Be Done" and the album's title track on which Martika was to lustfully declare "Inhibition be damned!/The table is set!/The oven is hot!/Baby, when we get started, we won't ever ever stop!"

"Prince is so brilliant," raved Martika, following the collaboration, "It's been the most amazing experience of my life. He trusted me and believed in me. He's been the ultimate teacher."

"It was more of a long distance relationship," she told Smash Hits, "I'd give him an idea and then he'd add something to it and give it back to me, a bit like a game of ping-pong. He's just a genius. Just trying to figure out where he's coming from has been a trip for me."

Among the collaborations with Prince was a track that had come to Martika while she was on her knees: "One night I was sitting in my room and about to say some prayers," explained the singer to Number One magazine, "I was brought up a Catholic, so I always knew plenty of them but I thought I needed my own prayer. I wrote one of my own and turned it into a song." The resultant single, "Love...Thy Will Be Done," returned Martika to the US and UK top 10s.



Despite frequent rumours of Martika's return, the singer now maintains a low profile; her musical career paused in a mysteriously ever-lengthening hiatus. With the likes of Eminem potently appropriating her recordings, however, this "underrated genius" (NME) seems ripe for a renaissance. As this collection substantiates, the likes of "Toy Soldiers," "Martika's Kitchen" and "Love...Thy Will Be Done" remain powerful, a decade and a half after their original release.

David Hemingway





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
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